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THE HISTORY
OF
BURNESIDE.

BY
THOMAS JONES

(For many years Schoolmaster in the Parish).

KENDAL:
ATKINSON AND POLLITT
1912.

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THE HISTORY

OF

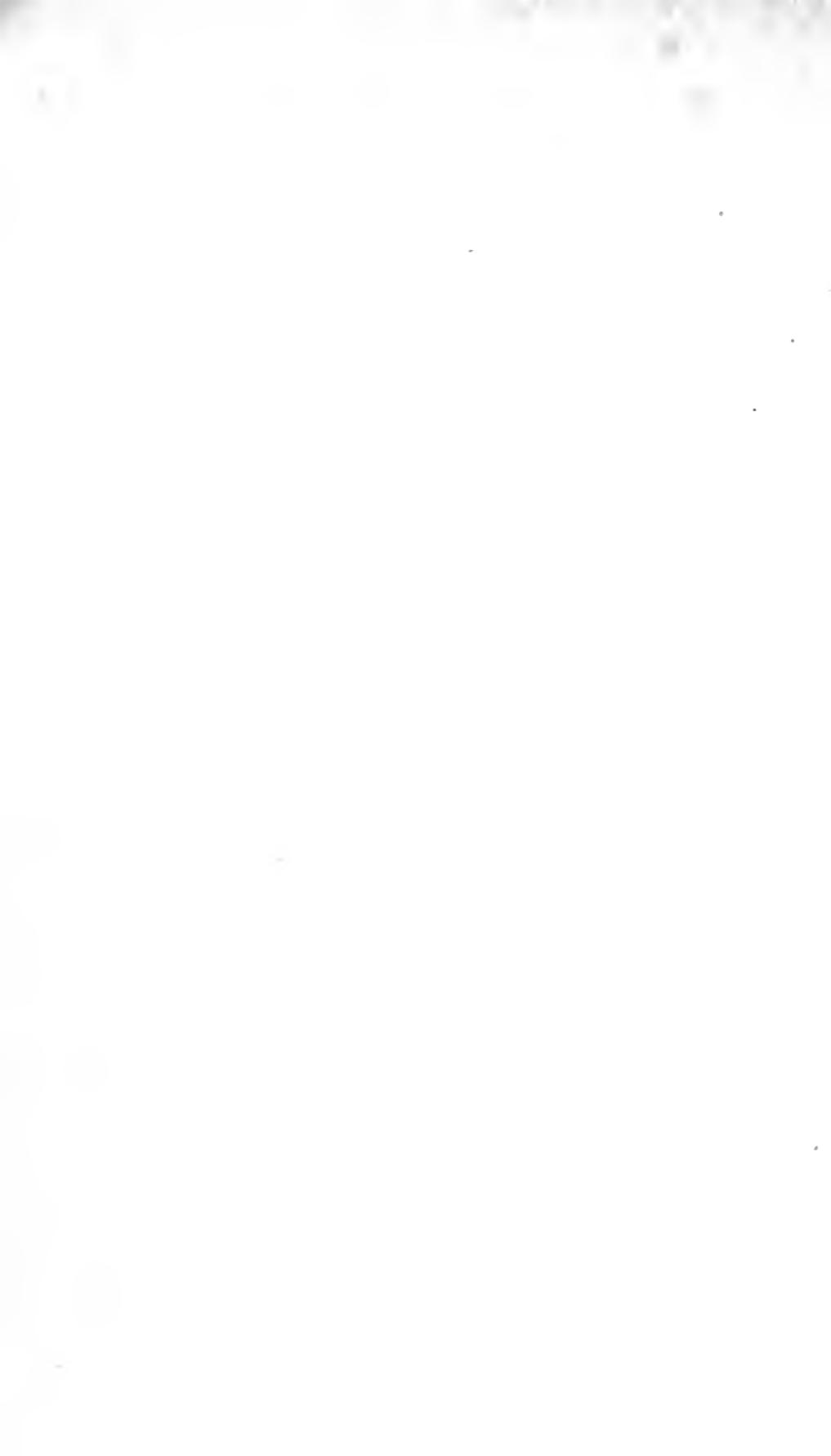
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PREFACE.

In compiling this little History of Burneside I have to acknowledge the assistance of "Old Boys" in collecting bits of information and photographs to illustrate the same ; also, to Mr. C. J. Cropper for the use of an essay in letter form, composed by the late James Cropper of Ellergreen, for the Tolson Hall Essay Party in 1893, from reliable and authentic sources. The information derived from the reading of these letters will enable my readers to clothe the "History Notes" in their appropriate atmosphere and light, showing how the inhabitants of these parts lived and loved in the stormy days of Charles I. and Cromwell.



Thomas Jones.

C.J.C.

THE HISTORY OF BURNESIDE.

THE PARISH OF BURNESIDE.

The parish of Burneside can scarcely lay claim to ancient history for, although within a day's journey of the turbulent Borders, no striking episode has taken place within its boundaries. Its ancient buildings—Burneside Hall, Godmond Hall and Helsfell Hall—were scarcely fortified places, were always under the control of the Baron of Kendal, and were generally a portion with him. Until about 1600 the parish was not distinct in any way, therefore no record of old-time Church affairs is in existence. Even three hundred years ago the whole county was sparsely populated, and much of the higher land was absolute waste. Thousands of acres, now valuable agricultural lands, were given over to wandering flocks and herds, and only the richer levels near the halls and towns were cultivated.

As to the period about which the parish was settled—there is no record in Domesday book of lands north of Kendal, but the titles of the parishes making up the ecclesiastical Burneside (Strickland Ketel and Strickland Roger) would point to occupation shortly after the Norman Conquest.

As in almost every Westmorland parish, the earliest historical document is the Hall, and for hundreds of years the succession of warrior families is the only record. Burneside Hall dates back as far as the reign of Edward I., 1290, when Gilbert Burneshead, Under-Sheriff of Westmorland, and the

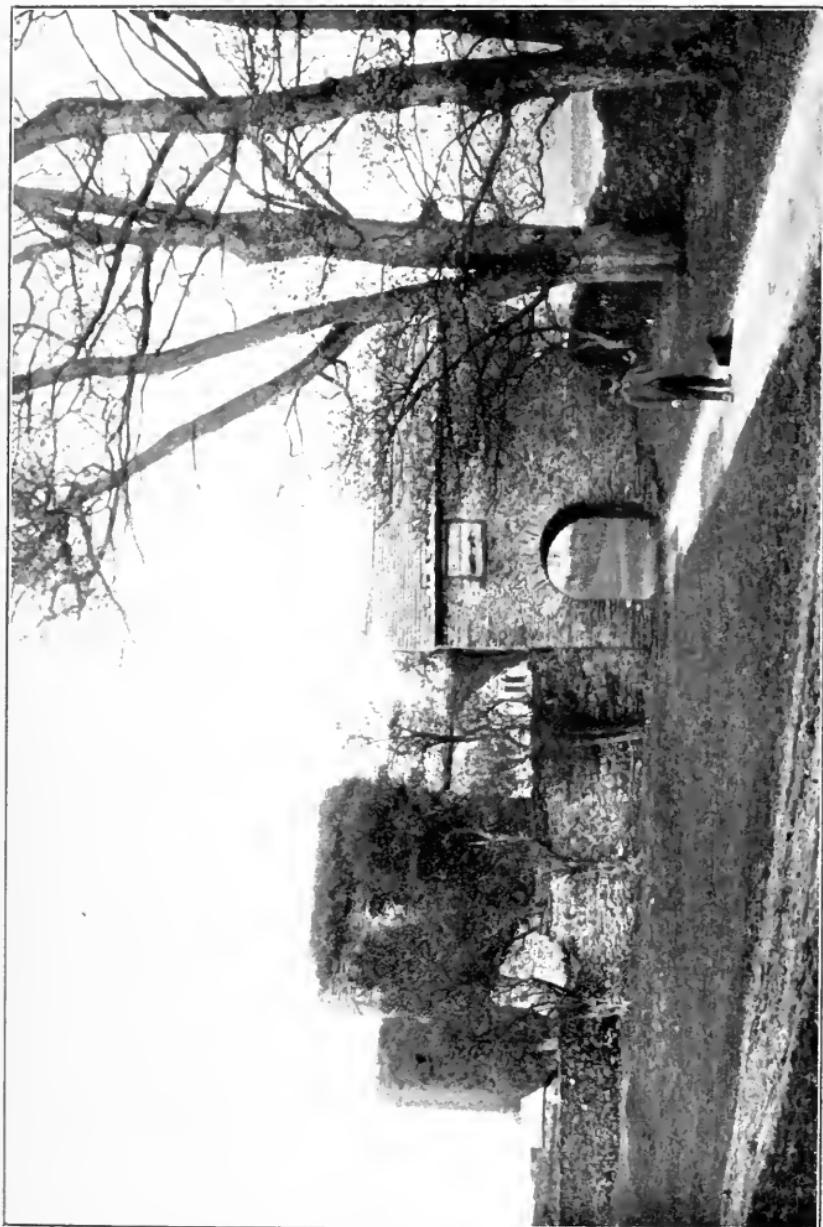
last of that family, resided there. The next owners were the Bellinghams, of Northumberland, a powerful and influential family and troublesome neighbours. Richard Bellingham had married Gilbert Burneshead's only daughter—here their descendants resided for about two hundred years. His great-grandson, Sir Robert, had eight sons, who settled in various parts of the county. The eldest, Sir Roger, inherited the Hall and left it to his son Roger, who in turn left it to Sir Robert, the last of the line. He, coming to grief, sold the estate to Sir Thomas Clifford in the reign of Henry III. It was during the time of the Bellinghams that the Hall was built of which the ruins are now left—whether any part of earlier buildings now remain is difficult to say. Architectural details only point to the 15th century, and the arrangement of the buildings corresponds with the habits of those times.

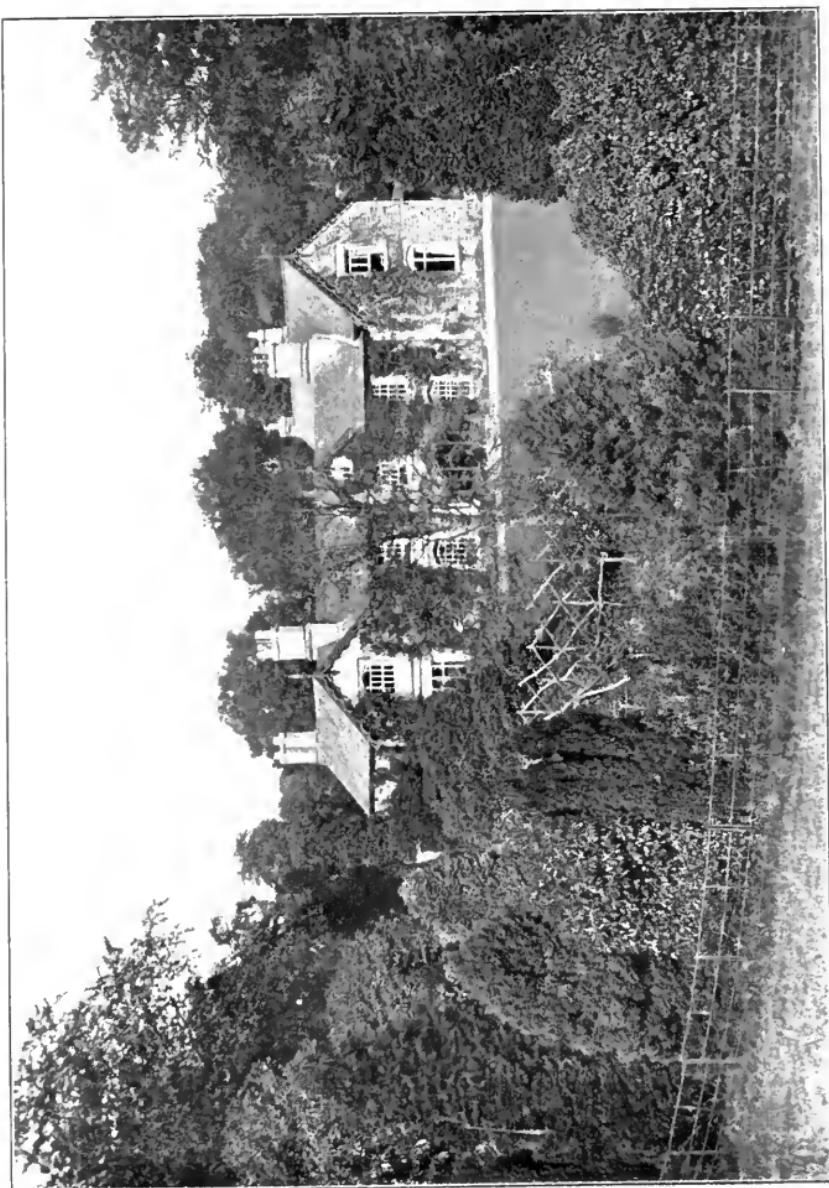
In the course of time Sir T. Clifford sold it to one Machell, of Kendal, and he to Robert Braithwaite, of Ambleside, in whose family it continued for seven generations. Thomas Shepherd next became the owner, and in his time the "manor" was broken up. Christopher Wilson bought the Hall, Lady Fleming, Cowen Head, and Sir James Lowther the remainder of the estate, together with the "manor-right." Christopher Wilson gave the Hall to his daughter who married one Bradyll, of Conishead Priory, and in their family it remained until 1842, when John Brunskill, of Lambrigg Foot, became the owner; at his death, it passed to Stephen Brunskill by inheritance. This last gentleman valued the estate greatly, taking great care of the ruins and improving the

Hogg

Burns, de Hall.

Photo





Photo

Tolson Hall.

Sangers

habitable part for the use of the tenant. In 1905 James Winstanley Cropper, of Summer How, became the owner by purchase.

With care the ruins may stand for many years, to give a vivid idea of the domestic life of a Border gentleman during the 14th and 15th centuries.

THE CHURCH.—ANCIENT.

The Chapel of Burneshead is common to Burneshead, Strickland Roger and Strickland Ketel.

To what saint it was originally dedicated we have not certainly found. There is a well called the Miller's, formerly St. Oswald's, which probably leads to the name of the tutelary saint. The Bell was anciently called St. Gregory's, with this inscription : " St. Gregory—Ora pro Nobis "; but at the Consecration or Benediction of the bells in old times, they had not always the name of the saint of the Church given to them, but occasionally that of other saints.

The earliest record we have of the Church at Burneside is to be found in the MS. volume of Bishop Gastril's *Notitia*, preserved in the Chester Diocesan Registry : " Burneside, this chap. was erected in 1602 as farre as can be collected from Figures inscribed on several parts of ye walls and timber bearing that date." The next record is in the reign of Charles I. William Hodgson, of Sandy Hills, and Alan Gilpin, of Kendal, sold to John Kitchen three parcels of land for £138, and at the death of the latter he bequeathed the rents of these, which amounted to five marks, or £3 6s. 8d., for the use of a lecturer, curate, minister, or schoolmaster at Burneside, " To preach the word of God there for edifying

people's souls, and the furthering their salvation, within the said chapelrie, sometimes in his prayer and sermon."

These curates or lecturers were supplied from Staveley and Hundhowe or Chapel-le-Wood. The following are a few names taken from the older Registers of Burneside :—

- 1684, November 17.—Mr. Wm. Stewardson, Usher of Kendal, and Jane Fisher, marry'd.
- 1780, May 30.—Mr. Lawrence Walker, Curate of Burneside, and Alice Gilpin, of Strickland Ketel, marryed.
- 1620.—Thomas, ye sonne of Sir John Wood, of Helsfell, baptized.
- 1694, July 5.—Margaret, wife of Mr. Watson, late curate of Strickland Roger, buried.
- 1696, Jany. 23.—Mr. Robert Smothwaite, curate of Burneside, buried.

Later on, in 1717, the Parish being included in that of Kendal, the spiritual wants of the inhabitants were supplied from there.

The Church of 1717 stood at the East end of the present churchyard, and the south side of the old Schoolhouse joined it. It was an oblong building with little pretension to beauty of architecture, and less of comfort for worshippers. The chancel rested against the present Schoolhouse wall. The floor was made of clay, well-beaten, and occasionally covered with clean straw or rushes. The few seats were plain benches, without back supports; those fortunate enough to secure an end seat had the support of a finial. As was more customary in those days, males and females

had their own sides of the aisle. The decorations were of a kind to surprise the present generation, and might possibly endanger the liberty of the minister; statues of saints and angels adorned the niches and angles; in glaring letters opposite the pulpit were the words "Cry aloud and spare not." The musical portion of the service, though characterised as hearty, was chiefly supported by a bass fiddle and a violin, but often these helps were absent, when the duty of "raising the tune" fell to the clerk, who filled a very important office in those days. We have not heard that the customary pitch-pipe of this worthy has been preserved at Burneside, though they are hardly rare in neighbouring parishes.

A stone porch, with seats, formed the entrance to the Church, offering every convenience for gossip about the weather and crops, both before and after service; here, also, the clerk gave notice of sales in the neighbourhood, and the village shoemaker took advantage of this opportunity to distribute his repairs. The Church was not much above river-level, and floods not unseldom reached the doorstep, making it impossible to attend service except on horse back. The minister acted as schoolmaster, probably to eke out his small stipend of £5 7s. 6d. In 1756 this stipend was increased by a donation of £400 invested in Government funds. About this time, the Communion Service of silver plate was stolen, and never recovered. No description of the old vessels seems to have been placed on record. A silver Paten was given to this Chapel in 1716 with this inscription: "Ob poen mult dedicat huic capelloe." Later, a new set was obtained but said to be of inferior

metal, and these were ordered to be kept by the churchwardens.

In 1826, the inhabitants of the parish increasing and the resident gentry, with landowners, awakening to a sense of their duty, agreed to erect a new Church and to enclose a burial ground for the use of the parish. Previously most of the funerals were conducted at Kendal Church. The ways and means for the new building were obtained by the aid of Queen Anne's Bounty, the liberality of the then Squire of Tolson Hall (Mr. Bateman), who also gave a stained glass window for the East end of Church, by the landowners, and by the proceeds of a sale by auction of the internal fittings of the old church and its woodwork. The only remains of the old fabric are a small portion of the east wall of the present churchyard and the finials of the eastward gate. Inside, though more commodious, the new Church was not much of an improvement, but the pretty spire and tower saved its outside presence architecturally. The Communion Table stood at the east end, with box pews on either side for Burneside Hall and Tolson Hall worshippers. A gallery at the west end accommodated children, organ and choir. Worshippers turned to the west during the musical portions of the service. The pulpit was a three-decker, and placed against the south wall. The heating apparatus consisted of a stove, the pipe of which passed through the vestry into a flue. The fire was generally replenished noisily during the Litany and sermon.

In 1861 the idea of extending eastward for a chancel came before the parishioners, but was aban-

doned in favour of a south aisle. At this time the seats were re-modelled, the old organ sold, and another obtained at the smallest cost, and placed in the most inconvenient corner. The chancel end of the nave was elevated and the roof papered. The old heating stove was done away with, and hot water apparatus put in its place. The old flue did duty as receptacle for a safe.

In 1868 the death of Mrs. Cropper, one of Burneside's worthies (of whom more by the bye), suggested a memorial window, but the existing windows not being suitable, a north aisle was built and an appropriate window inserted at its east end.

In a few more years the growing population of the Parish and the incongruity of the various portions of the Church, once more suggested a new chancel, and many modifications and alterations, but as there were objections to disturbing the graves, it was not found practicable to extend the old building sufficiently, so a new Church was agreed upon. Ample means were forthcoming, and nearly the whole of the old 1826 Church was taken down in March, 1880, and in little more than a year, the present edifice, on the site of the older structure, was opened by Dr. Goodwin, Bishop of Carlisle, April 29, 1881.

THE PRESENT CHURCH.

The present edifice is constructed of slate stone found in the neighbourhood, with yellow freestone dressing, and consists of a nave, with north and south aisles, and a tower at the south-west corner surmounted by the old limestone spire. The length of the interior is 70 feet, the breadth 50 feet, the

height 40 feet. The tower is 53 feet to the battlement, and the spire 30 feet higher.

The low spire detracts considerably from the appearance of the building, a desire to preserve it being the only reason for its presence. There is no structural chancel, a portion of the nave being reserved for that purpose. A low carved screen, facing the body of the Church, was subsequently removed and replaced by a beautifully carved reredos, the floral panel being designed by Mrs. Willink, and the work carried out by Mr. A. H. Willink's Carving Class. An ornamental screen fills the north arch, and the organ occupies a space under the corresponding arch of the south aisle. The choir stalls, lectern, and pulpit are of carved oak, as also is the Communion Table. A fine open timbered roof, panelled over the chancel, presents a warm and agreeable appearance.

The re-constructed portion of the Church has been carried out in the Decorated Gothic style, and the interior in Perpendicular wood-work.

The Ornaments.

The memorial windows attract first attention after the proportions of the Church have been admired. The one in the north aisle, to the late Mrs. Cropper, has already been mentioned. This window illustrates, with lights designed by the Rev. Canon Weston, the deeds of kindness mentioned in St. Matthew xxv., 37-46, and has this inscription :—“ In loving memory of Fanny Alison Cropper, this window was erected by many of her friends and neighbours, 1869.”

The east end chancel window will bear close inspection. Miss Cropper planned the window so that



Photo

(1) Burneside Church, 1826. (2) Burneside Church, 1881.

Sawyers

it should contain the Five Types of the Passion without actually introducing the Crucifixion. It is by Shrigley and Hunt, of Lancaster, and was given by Mr. F. Gelderd in memory of his wife—the heiress of G. A. Gelderd, of Aikrigg End. The colouring is subdued, and the design elaborately worked out.

A window, picturing “The Good Shepherd,” fills the west end, in memory of Sarah Steele, wife of Mr. John Steele, of Ivy Cottage.

An admirable example of glass painting is to be seen in the south aisle, where a one-light window has been inserted by the “Old Scholars of Burneside School, 1859-1880.” It represents “the finding of Jesus in the Temple,” designed by the now Rev. Herbert Gresford Jones, and worked out by Heaton, Butler and Baines.

Another window has been added to the same aisle by the papermakers, and by friends of the late John Bryce, in loving memory of his kindly interest in the welfare of the employees connected with the mills.

The death of our mutual friend and benefactor, Mr. James Cropper, of Ellergreen, suggested another window to perpetuate his notable memory. Friends and parishioners joined, and a beautiful, costly glass was placed in the west end of the north aisle, opposite to that in memory of his beloved wife.

The Bateman window, with the family coat of arms, and two small pictures of the “Annunciation” and the “Last Supper,” which filled the East end of the old Church, was cut down to fill a window in the

south aisle. What was left of the tracery is now in the West window of the Institute.

THE SCHOOL.

In years gone by the offices of Schoolmaster and minister were held by the Curate, Minister, or Lecturer attached to the Chapel, with its £3 6s. 8d. fee. I fear we cannot trace much of the school teaching until 1717. England was for centuries too much torn by disputes concerning the throne and concerning the form of national religion, to give attention to the teaching of the humbler classes. The people were ordered to attend church, and punished if they ventured to take their own lines in their form of worship. Printing was slow and expensive, and few works existed except the Bible, which was, under one sovereign, forbidden to the common people, and, by another, permitted to be read with a chain to the reading desk. The priesthood claimed the right to interpret religion, and handed over the daring Non-conformist to the cruel treatment of the secular power. Here and there men thought to get a better place in the next world by building chantries and paying a priest to say prayers for them, after they were gone, and they sometimes attached to the priest the duty of teaching the children. Thus Sedbergh School was formed by a certain Roger Lupton. He left money for a priest who was, as is cited in a record of 1536, "to pray for his soul and to keep a free school." One hopes the poor priest performed his duty; but in the end, most of the charity lands, including those of Sedbergh, were taken by a Royal Commission for the King's use, or were made away



Photo

(1) Burneside School, 1717.

(2) Burneside School, 1912.

Scwyd

with by dishonest trustees, and education, which was deemed above the needs of the common people, fell into disuse. Still the world moved on, and when quieter and more secure times came, kind-hearted men in their own neighbourhood, as at Burneside, did certain Sunday duty in the Church of the Parish, and performed the rites of the Established service. One of these clergymen schoolmasters was at Burneside within living memory, and some parishioners can tell of "Parson Robinson" who taught boys reading, writing, and some Latin, in the old school-house at the foot of the churchyard, over sixty years ago. A small school for girls was established about 1847, and was the only school in the neighbourhood. But public opinion had been growing in favour of education, and Parliament was stirred to aid Training Colleges, and appoint Inspectors of Schools.

"Parson Robinson" passed away, much respected, in 1857, and Mr. London became incumbent. Two years previously a new school had been built, and had been held unsuccessfully by a master of the old sort. At his departure, 1859, it was placed under Government inspection, probably the first in this part of the Lake District, Mr. T. Jones being the first master. In 1897 he retired and Mr. Harry Legge, of Culham, took charge.

CURATES who were also Schoolmasters at Burneside:—1791 to 1799, Rev. John Wilson; 1800 to 1803, Rev. James Ward; 1803 to 1809, Rev. Richard Knagg; 1810 to ?, Rev. John Scott.

VICARS only:—

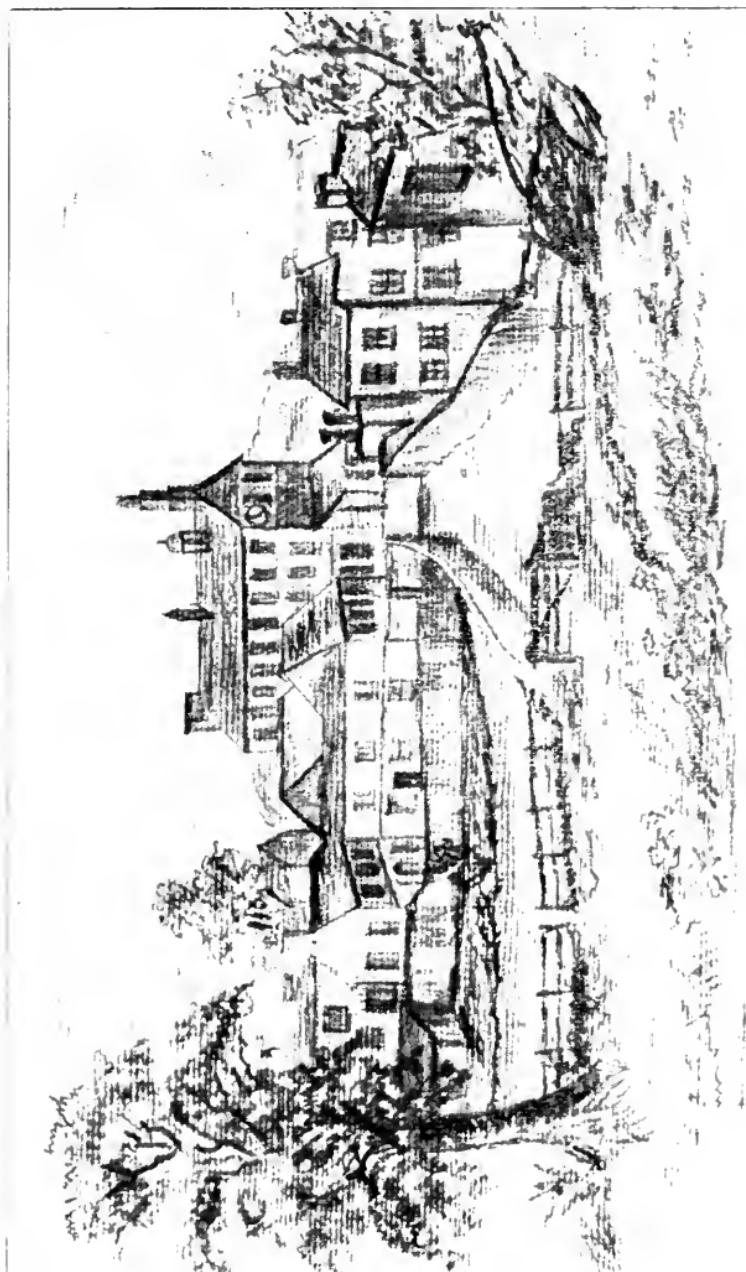
1854 to 1859, Rev. George London; 1860 to 1865,

Rev. George Wall; 1865 to 1867, Rev. Isaac Bowman; 1867 to 1869, Rev. Lewis Saunders; 1869 to 1896, Rev. Canon Jones; 1896 to 1898, Rev. C. T. Horan; 1898 to 1905, Rev. J. Fell; 1905 to 1910, Rev. J. Sinker; 1910 to 1911, Rev. W. Hornby; 1912, Rev. G. H. T. Baily.

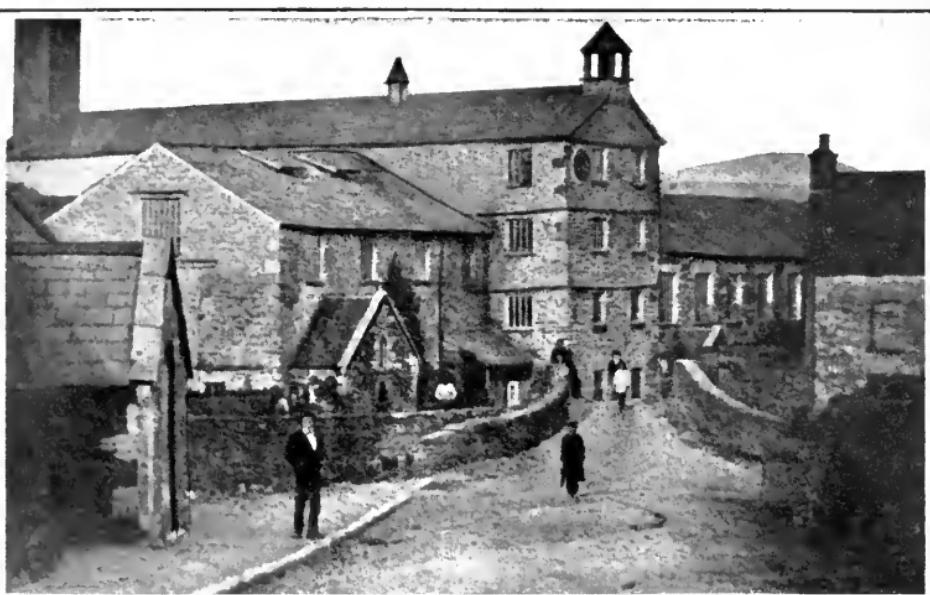
PRESENT-DAY BURNESIDE.

For centuries the halls at Burneshead, and of Godmond and Helsfell in the hills on either confine of the parish, with presumably a few hovels and farm-steadings now quite unmarked, were the whole of the buildings in Burneside parish. Then gradually, when the Border wars ceased, and agriculture, as we know it, came into existence in the vale of the Kent, the farmhouses at present in existence began to be built. Few of these have anything to give a clue to the actual date of their foundation, and old as some of them are, it is doubtful whether more than one or two were built before the beginning of the 17th century, and most of them belong clearly to the early 18th.

During the past half-century, however, many new buildings, modifications, additions and adaptations have been carried out, for the population of the parish has increased equally with the extension of its paper mills. Of course, the buildings erected—with the exception of Ellergreen, Gowan Lea, and Whitefoot in the earlier years, and the Institute in later years, with Banal Head—have been chiefly cottages, and it is no part of this record to consider in detail domestic architecture of the 19th and 20th centuries.



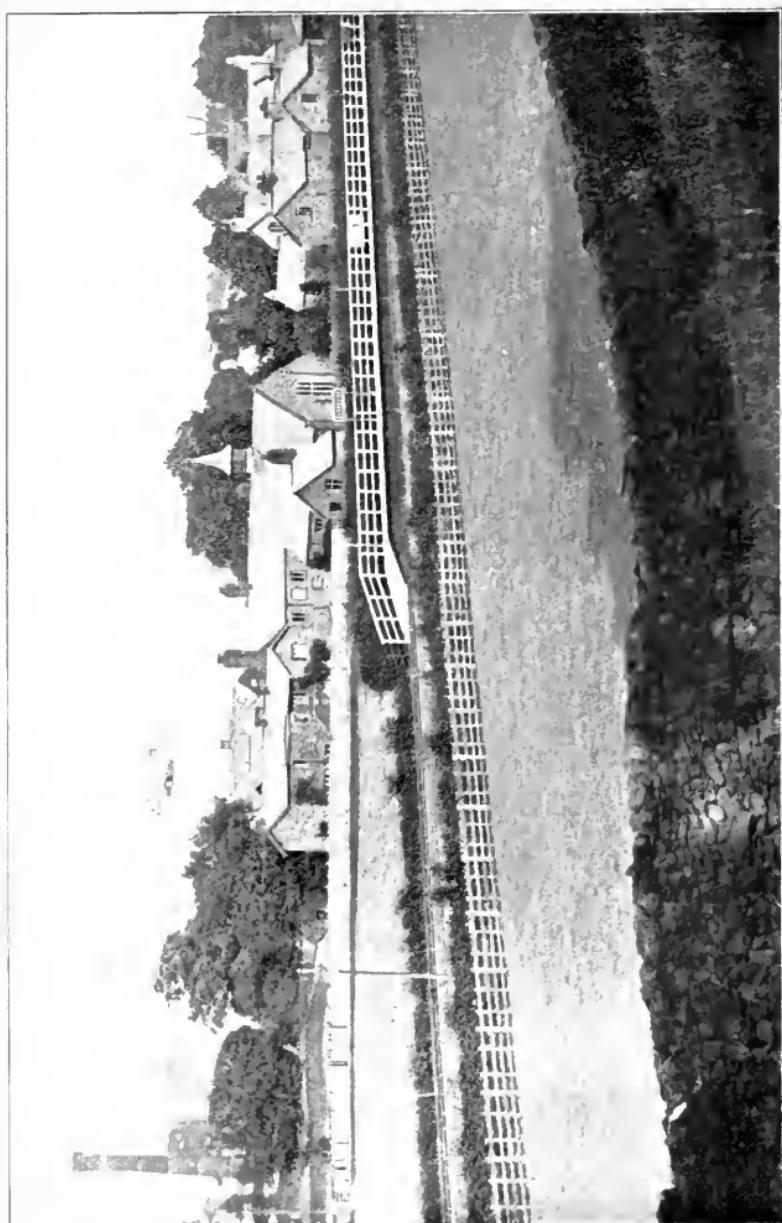
Burneside Mills, 1800.



Photo

(1) Burneside Mills, 1859. (2) Burneside Mills, 1912.

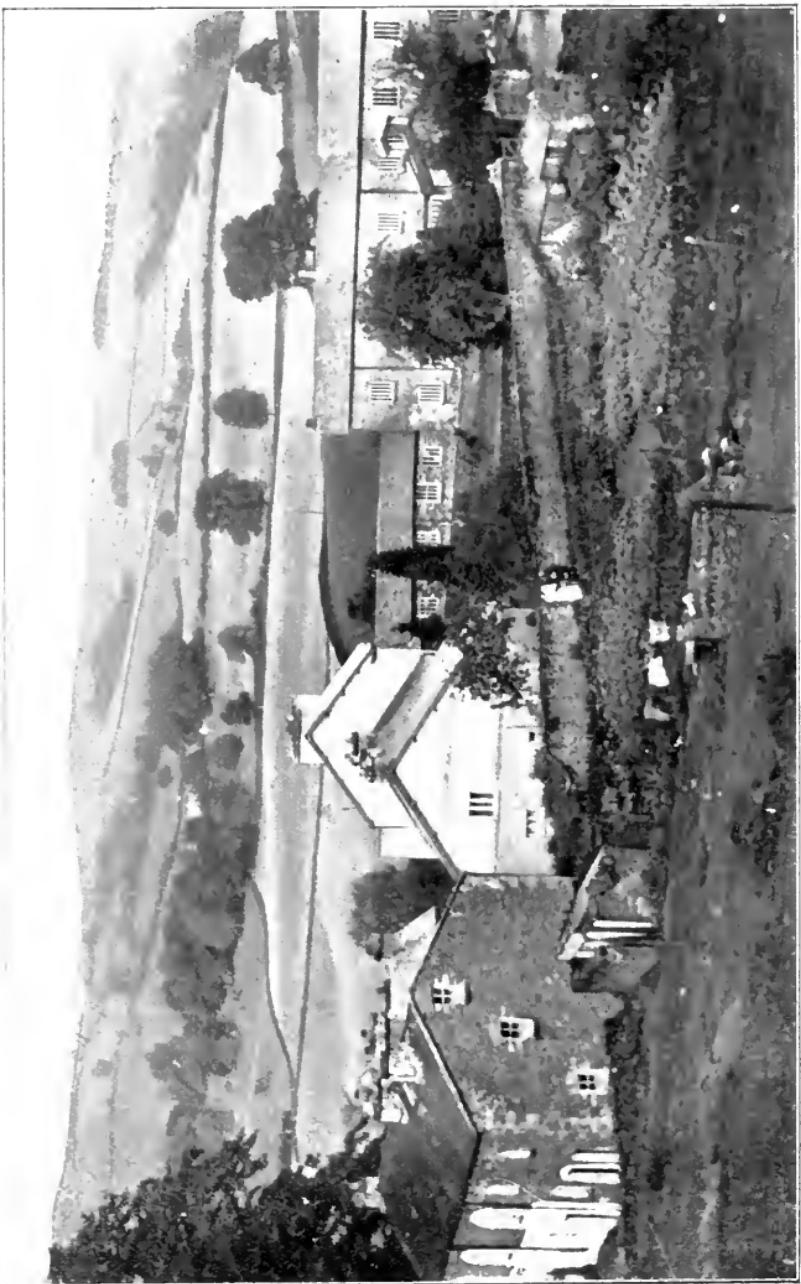
Sawyers



Photo

Burneside (Present Day).

Somers





Bowston Bridge—Hamlet.

The hamlet of Boustone Bridge was built entirely within the recollection of men of my acquaintance; the grandfather of the present joiner at Burneside, Nathan Shepherd, stating that he helped to build the oldest cottages (near the bridge), the timber for which was cut in Pepperhag Wood. Of Cowan Head there is somewhat older record, but exactly what the buildings then were, is doubtful. It is possible that the present "Square" is on the site of older houses, possibly of a temporary kind. Cowan Head's historic house—that occupied by the foreman of the mill—was almost entirely destroyed by fire a few years ago; this was the residence which James Cropper first held in the parish, and where his first daughter, Mrs. Conybeare, was born. The rest of the family claim Ellergreen as their birth place.

People living in the heart of the parish are rather apt to forget the extent of their boundaries, and particularly that the block of houses and inn known as the Sun Inn in "Crook," are part of Burneside. Of course Bonning Gate is ours; for many years there was a chain across the highway here to prevent the unauthorised use of the road by wheeled vehicles. The tolls collected were applied to the upkeep of the roads. Garnett Bridge, as regards the houses on one side the Sprint, is in Burneside parish. When the disused bobbin mills there, and at Cocks Close further up stream, were in full work, that side of the parish might even be the more densely populated division.

One house has so far been left out of this record, Hundhowe. There seems nothing bearing on the age of this building, no history or stories relating definitely to it. In another part of this little record are

some rather interesting allusions to a chapel formerly kept there.

Of Helsfell Hall only a vestige of the western wall remains, and that, as part of a barn. A window with squared mullions and rounded arches is still visible, though the interstices have been built up. The general foundations, however, may be traced, and the extent of the building partly guessed at. Eighty years or so ago, a bronze cross two feet in length was dug up among the ruins, with a small crucifix attached to it, which was thought to be of gold. What happened to the relics is not recorded. From this circumstance it seems possible that at one time there was an oratory and altar within the Hall, which commanded a wide view of the approaches to the vale, and was doubtless used as a signalling station by the fighting families at Kendal and Cunswick.

History, too, is silent about Godmond Hall, ancient though its solid pele-tower is, nor is there any remarkable story of any of its occupiers, though they were ever staunch supporters of Church and State. Burneside Hall, dealt with in an earlier section, is still marked by square ivied tower, but the north-western face is shattered, and overgrown with bird-sown rowans and ashes.

Tolson Hall is much more interesting. Its middle portion was built in 1638 by Thomas and Ann Tolson. This is evidenced by the stained glass windows, and also by the plaster inscription on two sides of a wall six feet thick; and it is interesting that a small room was discovered in the inside of this wall, which

is useful now—not for hiding a priest, as in olden times—but as a boot cupboard.

The stained glass has these inscriptions, quarterings, and coats of arms, difficult to understand :

God by this
means hath sent what I
on this house have spent
T. T.

All prayers be unto Him
name, that gave me meanes
to build the same,

1638.

An explanation of the “meanes,” the other window testifies, as in addition to the inscription is a sketch of a roll of leaf tobacco on one side, and a cable of thick twist on the other, and three clay pipes :

God
by this meanes
hath
16 sent 38
what I on this
house have
spent.
1638.

As tobacco was only introduced into England in 1584, Tolson must have been one of the first to venture in the manufacture of tobacco, and with more than ordinary success. After the death of Thomas Tolson, and the disposal of the property, all trace of the owner is lost until 1750, when Mr. Bateman came into possession, and built the gateway on the south side, which is a copy of the Castle gate at

Lancaster. In 1814 he erected the monument on the hill to commemorate Napoleon's banishment to Elba, and though it was intended to have inscriptions placed on the four sides, to this effect, the escape of Napoleon put an end to this plan; the occasion slipped by and the monument is still uninscribed. Mr. Bateman built the western wing and put up the tablet in the church in memory of his son, James Bateman, and died in 1824, aged 75. The late Mr. W. Whitwell took the property, in 1840, on a long lease, removed the battlements, and covered the hall with slate instead of lead. In 1876, Mr. C. J. Cropper brought his bride there, built the east wing, and otherwise made the house more up to date, at the same time preserving as much as possible the ancient parts, notably the left wall, the panelled oak parlour with its inscription,

T. A. T. 1638,
and two plaster inscriptions

1638.

T. T. T. R.

I

and

1639

C. R.

T. T. A.

The half cresset-shaped firegrate is also still to be seen as at the above dates.

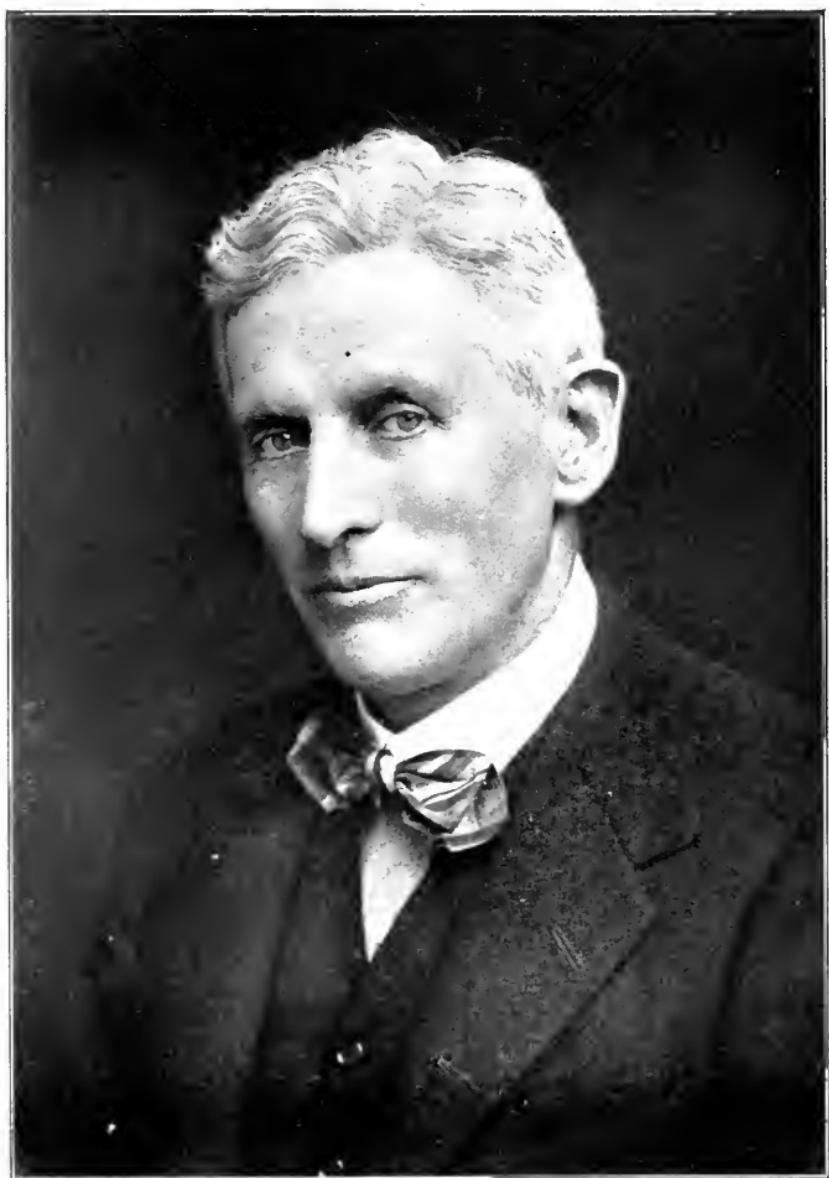
Again, turning to the buildings which go to make up the village of Burneside, it is difficult to say much. There has, unfortunately, been no continued attempt at village-planning, and as a whole or separately, the houses can scarcely be described as picturesque.



Photo

James Cropper.
1st Generation—James Cropper & Co.

Hogg.



Photo

Charles James Cropper.
2nd Generation — James Cropper & Co.

Hogg.



Photo

James W. Cropper,
3rd Generation James Cropper & Co.

Hogg-



Photo

Anthony Charles Cropper.
4th Generation.

Hogg



Alfred H. Willink.
James Cropper & Co.



Miss Cropper

But, like most things we cherish, they are comfortable and useful, each dwelling possessing its bit of garden. For the young folks, two large playing fields have been kindly placed by the Squire at the disposal of all who care to play the national games of Cricket, Football and Hockey.

THE MILLS.

About 1750 the Burneside Hall estate was, as mentioned in the first chapter, divided up by Mr. Thomas Shepherd, who had inherited it from his father. The Hall and most of the present farm was sold to Mr. Christopher Wilson, of Barbon; the northern portion, including Cowan Head, to Lady Fleming, and the Burneside Falls and land, ultimately came to Roger Wakefield, of Kendal.

Lady Fleming sold the Cowan Head Falls and land to Mr. Thomas Ashburner, who made there a Paper Mill, of which more anon.

Roger Wakefield, of Kendal, being a woollen trader and banker, with a quick eye to the new trade in cotton, made Burneside Falls into a cotton mill on a limited scale.

Since then the manufacture of cotton has spread over the country. The inventions of Robert Peel in 1771, of Arkwright and Crompton in 1775, were fully adopted, but yet the number of mills spinning cotton was small, and distributed all over the country wherever water power could be had. In 1787 there were in all 119 mills, most of them of small size, and of these Lancashire had 41, Yorkshire 11, and Westmorland 6. Fresh patents and machinery came out, and pro-

bably Burneside Mill did not keep up to date, for it seems to have been turned into a woollen mill early in the present century. For a time a great trade was kept up in what were called Kendal Coatings, which were exported from Liverpool to America. This was a coarse cloth made from local wool for the slaves and poorer colonists. The high duty put on by the United States Government after the war of 1812, injured the trade, and Mr. Jacob Wakefield, grandson of the aforesaid Roger Wakefield, who was now the owner of Burneside, gave up the business of manufacturing in 1819, and devoted his attention to banking and agriculture.

Mr. Jacob Wakefield, who was born in 1766, was an active and energetic man. In his obituary in the *Kendal Mercury* of 1844, it states he was the leading manufacturer, and after the fashion of the day, he visited the markets of Westmorland and Cumberland to purchase the produce of the farm-house spinning wheels. Systematic punctuality was the system of his life, and his health and energy enabled him to accomplish exertions on horseback to which no other man was equal. He was known to ride after tea from Ravenglass to Kendal over the then wild passes of Hardknott and Wrynose. An old resident of Burneside used to say that Mr. Wakefield only allowed ten minutes for his daily ride between Kendal and Burneside. He successfully undertook the reclaiming of the common land, which he visited daily until the day he died, 1844. He also planted a large extent of moorland in Cartmel Fell and along the borders of Windermere.

Meanwhile the Cowan Head water-power had

been constantly employed by Messrs. Ashburner in making paper in the old style, sheet by sheet, with slow drying in the air. The pure water and air helped the manufacture, and such mills were spread over the country, using the rags collected in the neighbourhood, and supplying all the paper required. The number of hands employed were large, but the amount of paper small. Till the middle of last century the only means of sending goods was by pack horses, which went in large gangs at regular days in all directions. Thus, when turnpike roads began to be formed, wagons were in use, and, it is said, that a wagon of paper and other Kendal goods were sent weekly from Cowan Head to York in this manner.

We have thus far shown the progress of the manufactures of Burneside as they gradually developed after the close of the woollen mill in 1819. In 1833, three young men, Hudson, Nicholson, and Foster, aided by Jacob Wakefield, banker, rented both Burneside and Cowan Head mills, and gradually began to adapt them to the new process of paper making, which, invented by Fourdrinier, came into operation early in the 19th century, and, like many other inventions, made a revolution in the old trade. In 1804 the first paper machine was set up at Frogmore, Herts., and fresh patents were taken out by Mr. Donkin and others, further developing the system. But the progress both in France and England was slow. In 1827 there were but four machines in France, and probably but twenty to thirty in England, so that the new firm which boldly set to work at Burneside and Cowan Head, while they had

a struggle to make their small capital do its work, had a good opening before them. They bought two old machines, and by slow degrees contrived to turn out a second-class printing at Burneside and a moderate wrapper at Cowan Head. The trade was hampered by an excise duty, and the label on each ream had to be signed by an excise man, who came up from Kendal twice a week for the purpose.

When the mills were bought, in 1845, by Mr. J. Cropper, the turn-out was still very small. There was not a steam engine in the works, and though the whole of the goods and coal had to be carted to and from the Kendal canal, it only needed two horses for each mill. The stoppage in dry weather was sometimes very troublesome. The number of workers were few, and the wages paid very low. The removal of the excise duty and of the tax on newspapers gave a wonderful impetus to the paper industry. The cost of newspapers fell from sixpence to one penny. Cottagers began to paper their dwellings, and to buy books; the street walls were gradually covered with placards; in every way the use of the paper was multiplied. Gradually new material for paper was discovered, till at length rag-made paper was the exception in England.

In all the changes, the mills at Burneside and Cowan Head took their share, and steam power grew rapidly to aid and supplant the old water power. In 1874 the mill at Bowston was erected to prepare material for the other mills. The amount of paper produced grew twenty-fold, and the number of workers, with higher wages, vastly increased. New material of every kind was brought into use—straw,

jute, alfa, and cotton waste from Lancashire; but pulp made from wood in Norway, has become by far the largest material.

All goes at full and fuller speed, and the new demands for strength and high surface and every shade of colour in paper, are met or anticipated.

Nothing is left of the original building at Burneside. New roofs cover ten times the space, and unless some new substance should take the place of paper, there will not be again a change of trade at Burneside.

THE DOLE

The Dole, of Kitchen's Charity, consists of the income derived from the Satturey lands, purchased by money given by Mr. Robert Kitchen, of Bristol, and others:—Great Satturey, 7 acres; Lamb Parrock, 3 acres; Brode Ing, 2 acres. The first was purchased in 1630 for £80; the second in 1643 for £40; and the third in 1643 for £18.

The first Trust Deed was made in 1630, and apportioned out the money as follows:—£3 6s. 8d. to a lecturer or minister at Burneside, the remainder to be divided among the poor householders in Strickland Ketel and Strickland Roger—not late incomers, or strangers—in money or bread “as by the Trust Deed in the Chapel Chest at Burneside, will more large appear.” As these townships kept their own poor, about the year 1702 it was agreed to divide the Dole in the proportion of 13s. and 7s. out of each pound.

In 1822, when the Fell Lands were portioned out to the landowners, the Parish of Burneside received

4a. or. 33p. on Potter Fell as a Village Green or Village Playground. The rent of this parcel of land is now received by the Overseers and applied by the Poor Rate.

BURNESIDE WORTHIES.

ALDERMAN ROBERT KITCHEN.

Of all the counties in the North of England, Westmorland is most famous for its small endowments, left by its successful sons for the benefit of the poor, or the advancement of education.

Robert Kitchen was Sheriff of Bristol in 1572, and Mayor in 1588. His residence was in Small Street, and there, on April 15th, 1587, he entertained the Earls of Leicester and Warwick.

By his will of the 19th June, 1594, he devised to trustees his capital mansion house, situate in Small Street, within the City of Bristol, with the appurtenances to the same belonging, upon the special trust that his executors or their successors should, at any time they should think most fit, sell the said capital messuage and premises for the greatest price they could have for the same; and after such sale, dispose and employ the money to the best benefits and relief of the poor within Bristol and the Town of Kendal, in the County of Westmoreland, and to other good and charitable uses, in such order, manner and form, as the executors, or the survivors or survivor of them, or the most part of them, should deem most convenient.

By an indenture of March 27th, 1631, the surviving executors of the will paid £1,000 to the Corporation—being the proceeds of the sale of the mansion house aforementioned—“To the intent that there should be for £600 of that sum a rent charge

of £32, issuing out of the lands of said Corporation, to pay 10s. a week every Saturday to some one poor householder, either a Burgess, or the widow of a Burgess inhabiting in the seventeen parishes of the city, mentioned in a schedule, making £26 a year, such householder to be nominated by the Mayor and Alderman, and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parishes respectively, one after another, in the order in the schedule, going over the same Parishes in order again and again, week by week for ever, and the remaining £6 a year, residue of the £32, to pay £3 at Lady Day, and £3 at Michaelmas, yearly for the preferment in marriage, or for a stock to set up a trade of such of the poor kindred of himself or his wife, a Kitchen or Sattlifield, as should dwell in Bristol, for ever, and for want of such kindred, for the placing of three fatherless or friendless children, dwelling in Christchurch, Temple, or St. Stephen's parishes, at the discretion of the said Mayor, Alderman, Churchwardens and Overseers. And of the other £400 of the said £1,000, £125 thereof to be yearly lent to merchants of Bristol in sums of £25 gratis, £250 to be lent to six or seven Burgesses for five years together, in sums of £5 or £10, and the remaining £25 to be lent to the Mayor gratis every Michaelmas, with a basin and ewer, double gilt, 90 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, which Humphrey Hook the then Mayor had, to the intent that the Mayor should have a care to the Charitable Trust." The Corporation covenanted faithfully to execute the trusts, and agreed that if they failed it should devolve on the Corporation of Bath.

Abel Kitchen, the surviving executor of the will



Photo

Robert Kitchen—Founder of Dole.

Sawyers

of Alderman Kitchen, by his will dated in 1639, directed that the rents of the New Market or Shambles, in Bristol (which he described as being of the gift of the Alderman, but whether to himself, the testator, or to the Charity does not appear), should be settled, after payment of the quit rents therein mentioned, for placing out seven poor boys or girls at £2 10s. od. a piece, and for the following gifts annually, viz. :— ,

To the parish of Westbury-on-Tyne	6s. 8d.	
to the poor of the parish, and	6s. 8d.	for
a sermon to be preached there annually	0 13 4	
To the parish of Christ Church for bread	1 6 0	
To the minister of St. Stephen's for a		
sermon	0 10 0	
To the Vicar of Kendal, in the County of		
Westmorland for a sermon	0 10 0	

So far as regards the annual payment of £26, distributed in pursuance of the trusts, in gifts of 10s. each among the poor of the several parishes of the city, the method of award is as follows :—

The Churchwardens of the Old Parishes, together with a committee of the Corporation who represent the ancient Mayor and Aldermen (under the Municipal Corporation Act, 5 and 6 Wm. IV., c. 76, sec. 73) meet at the Council House in Mar: or April (generally sometime before Easter). The Town Clerk has previously sent a precept to the Churchwardens, which is affixed to the Church door, giving notice that on a certain day the committee will sit for the receipt of the applications. The Churchwardens fill up the recommendation, and bring it to the meeting, and, if approved of, the order to pay on

the same form is signed by the Chairman. This order is taken to the Charity Trustees. By an Act of Parliament 21 and 22 Vic. Cap 30, Sec. 6, it is enacted that the annual surplus, if any, arising from this sum, not required for distribution in the manner prescribed by the founder of the Charity, shall be placed by the trustees to the credit of a fund for general charitable uses belonging to the same charity, and be applied and disposed of by them for such charitable objects for the benefit of the poor of the City of Bristol as the Trustees shall from time to time determine. From this fund accordingly annual subscriptions are given to the Infirmary, the Hospital, and the Dispensary. A grant is also made therefrom, annually, for coals to the poor, and grants of not exceeding five pounds each are bestowed on distressed citizens.

In New Market Passage, Broad Street, in the parish of Christ Church, is inscribed on a beam running across it :

“ This buildinge is at the charge of Robert Kitchen, Late Alderman of Bristol, for the Relief of the Poor.”

On a shield in the centre of the beam is the merchant’s mark of the donor, and beneath it the date 1598.

On a brass over the vestry door of St. Stephen’s, at the eastern extremity of the south aisle, are represented a man and his wife kneeling at a desk with hands upraised as in prayer, and beneath them is inscribed as follows :—

“ Deceased the 5 of September An. Dni. 1594.
Robert Kitchen, Alderman, and his Wife,



Richard Braithwaite "Dapper Dick."

Lieth neare this place, Closed in Earth and Clay;
 Their Charities alike in Death and Life,
 Who to the Poor gave all their goods away;
 Leaving in trust such men to act the same,
 As might in truth perform their good intent,
 So that the poore indeed, and eke in name,
 To lasting Ages in this City meant,
 And other places of this Kingdom faire,
 As Kendall town and Stockland field both have;
 With Bath, the native place of her first ayre,
 The Countie of their gvyftes they to them gave."

In front of the Exchange are four pillars of brass. In ancient days our merchants paid for their purchases on them. Hence, I believe, originated the phrase 'Pay down on the nail,' that is, upon either of these pillars, which were then called nails. (Pryce's History).

On one of the four is this inscription:—" This post is the gift of Master Robert Kitchin, Merchant, Sometime Maior and Alderman of this City, who dec. 5 Septemb. 1594." Round the upper edge or rim of the pedestal of this pillar is inscribed, " His executors were fower of his servants, John Barker, Matthew Haviland, Abell Kitchin, Alderman of this City, and John Roldborrow, Sheriff 1630."

RICHARD BRAITHWAITE.

From 1588-1683 lived Richard Braithwaite, otherwise known as Drunken Barnaby, a nickname of his own choice, attached to him by the many allusions to strong drink in his verses, or Dapper Dick, the soubriquet by which he was known at school. Of his early life little is known beyond the fact that he was born

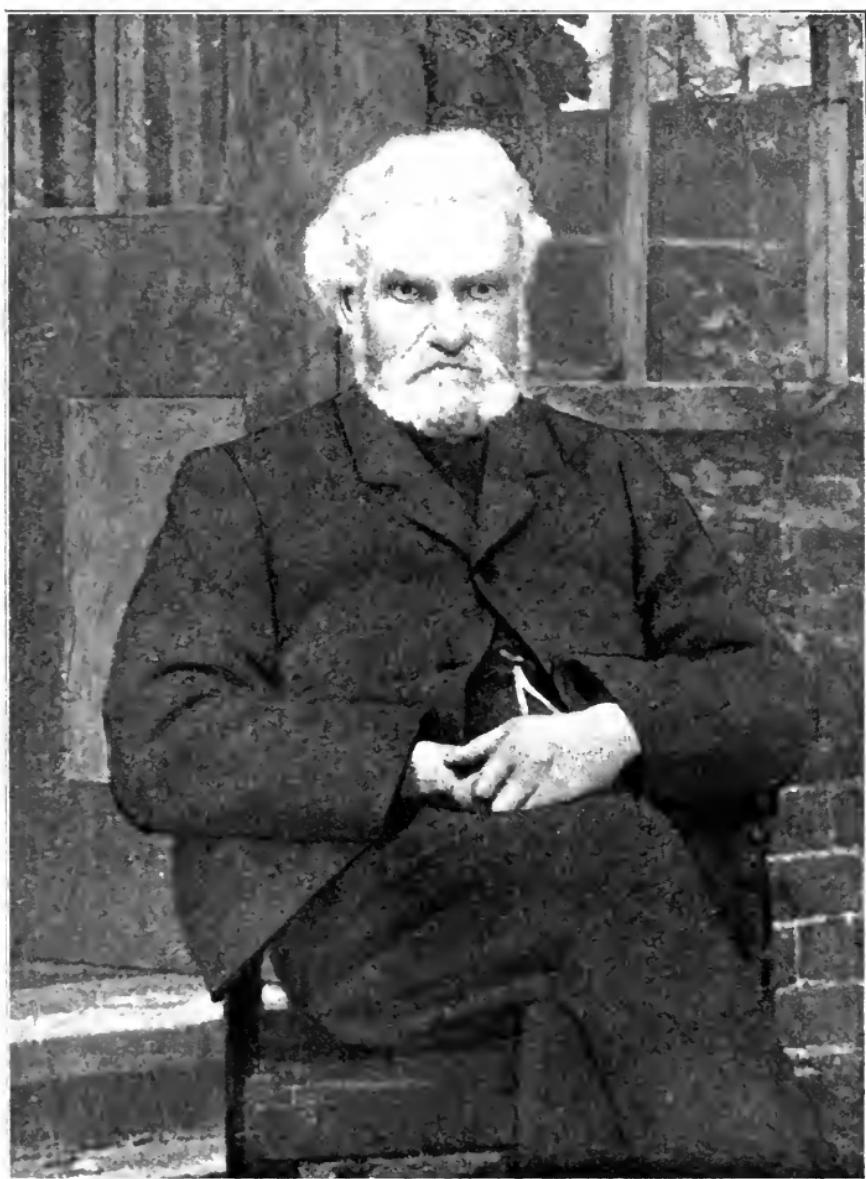
in our parish. Proceeding to Oxford, he finished his education and took to literary work, publishing many volumes of poetry, and editing the "Gentleman's Magazine." The best known of his works is "Barnaby's Journal," a facetious description of several journeys to and from the North of England, in Latin and English. Later in life he allowed his tenants to purchase their farms, thus helping to build up a race of men for which the county is famous—"Westmorland 'Statesmen,'" sound in mind and body, and of sturdy independence. Retiring to Yorkshire, this amiable gentleman, remarkable for genial wit and humour, closed a busy life, and was buried at Catterick, 1683.

ROBERT AND ROWLAND KITCHEN.

Robert and Rowland Kitchen, of Strickland Ketel; the former became a trader in Bristol, eventually Alderman, Sheriff, and Mayor of that city; the latter farmed an estate at Underbarrow. Becoming successful in business, they left estates in the parish "for the benefit of the poor, and a stipend for a curate to preach the word of God there, for edifying people's souls and the furthering their salvation within the said chappelrie, sometimes in his prayers and sermons (the better to stir up others to the like works of charity); to give God thanks in commemoration of the donors' good intention, and also for the administration of the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper there, at Easter and other convenient times according to the Canons of the Church of England."

—1635.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ABOVE CHARITY should cer-



Photo

John Steele, Ivy Cottage.

Hogg



affects you
John Bryce

tainly be incorporated as Parish Worthies for the time and trouble given gratuitously in discharging the Trust. One of them, MR. JOHN STEELE, of Ivy Cottage, for more than 50 years assisted as Trustee, and finally endowed the Church with £500 for an organ fund, and otherwise helped his neighbours in a genial and friendly way.

ALEN FISHER.

Later than the Kitchens we had the Parson of Hundhowe, Alen Fisher, who ministered in spiritual things to the good folks of his day, and in the end endowed the School with a yearly income, a library, two foundation prizes (the envy of every ambitious youth), and bread money—£2 12s. yearly—to supply the wants of some poor widow.

JOHN BRYCE.

John Bryce, a member of the firm of James Cropper and Co., came here in the early fifties of the 19th century to manage a rapidly growing business, and although fully occupied in this respect, he took a practical interest in the welfare of the workers. Of a generous disposition, he duly considered their wants, and tried during his lifetime to realise them. Death, however, intervened, but his ideas were carried out, and we have the Institute, replete with library, reading-room, billiard-room, and large hall, for the special wants of the workmen and the parish generally. For the School, he left two bursaries for higher education and valuable prizes to be competed for annually. His kindly nature is kept

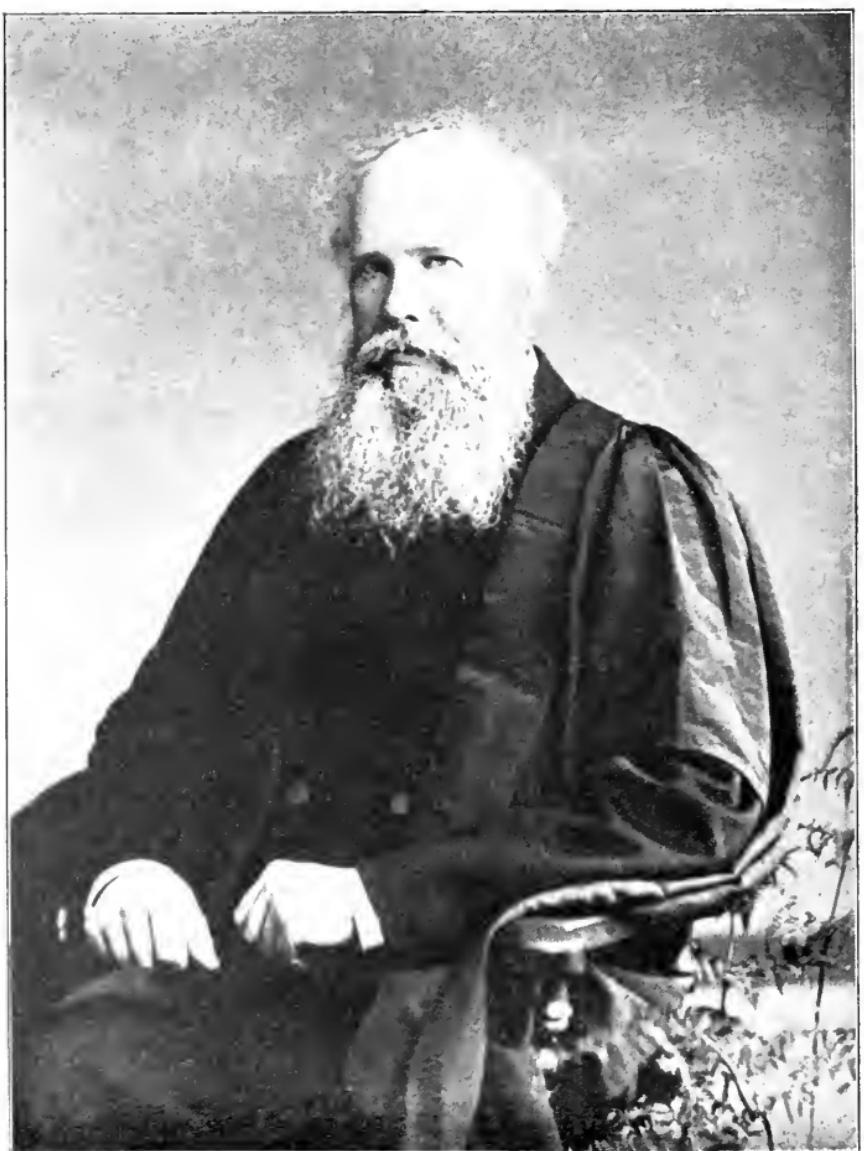
in remembrance by a costly window in the Parish Church, erected by his numerous friends, neighbours, and employees—1832-1896.

JAMES CROPPER.

This name and personality is unique in the history of Burneside and its worthies, for what would it have been without his presence as employer, counsellor, or friend ? In looking back through the long years of his life, at the numerous instances and occasions in which he played the man (for He who gave the talents, also gave the willing heart and mind to use them in His service for the betterment of mankind) it would be out of place to enter into any detailed record of his many kind deeds. Facts speak for themselves : it will be sufficient if we say that not only in Burneside but in the district far and wide, societies of all kinds—religious, educational, and commercial—profited by his broad and varied experience. Individuals who had fallen in the race of life, had the rugged road smoothed by timely aid, and personal worth met with recognition and was brought to the surface. To the Parish, he was the kindly neighbour, sympathising in their joys and sorrows. Commercially, as an employer of labour, he provided constant work, with security of tenure, to all good characters. Politically, he took part in the Council of this great nation.

MINISTERS OR VICARS.

The Parish has without doubt been blessed with many notable Vicars, severally noted for some pecu-



Rev. Canon Jones.

liar excellence, all good preachers, and godly men. Within the last fifty years, ten clergymen have taken part in the spiritual care of the Parish. It would be invidious to mention the good deeds of each, if indeed it were possible; but the one whose loving memory is still green in the hearts of all, was the Rev. CANON JONES, who for twenty-seven years ministered to his parishioners by example and precept, creating as it were a quiet and peaceful atmosphere. During his vicariate the Church was re-built.

The following extracts from the Will of Rev. Alen Fisher, of Hundhow, relating to the School and Church are interesting and valuable as showing exactly the Beneficiarie, and the amount of grant for each. Parishioners have a hazy idea of the whole matter.

This good man died in 1787, leaving the sum of £600 in the hands of Trustees to be distributed as follows :—

1.—“That a suit of French Plate for the Communion Service at Burneside Church.”

This was carried out in the same year by the purchase of Plate costing £8 2s. 6d.; a few years afterwards the same was stolen one Saturday night. No provision being made for another, or the parishioners being too poor to buy one, a bottle and plate had to do duty until better times.

2.—“That the Schoolhouse be raised one storey and on the second floor, that there be a fire place and closet, with proper benches for such as learn writing and accounts—on which addition not more than thirty pounds shall be expended.”

This was carried out, and the Master occupied the lower storey as a dwelling. To mark the date (1717) of the School, the Trustees expended £2 0 0 on a stone let into the wall. This extra taken out of the capital of £600 0 0 was repaid in the year 1813.

“ This School was re-built by the Benefaction of the Rev. Alen Fisher, of Hundhow, in Strickland Roger, who likewise bequeathed Six hundred pounds for its endowment and other pious uses, and departed this life

May 16, 1787, aged 84.”

3.—“ That at each yearly meeting, the sum of 10s. 6d. shall be spent by Trustees.”

This of course meant a dinner for their hard work. In 1860 some one or two of the Trustees proposed that the cost of the dinner would produce better results if divided into two yearly prizes of 5s. 3d. for the girls.

4.—“ At every Christmas recess half a guinea shall be given to the boy who writes the Fairest Hand and truest English, and half a guinea to some other boy that is the best accomplant. Such boys winning these prizes shall be afterwards excluded for some other properly qualified claimant.”

More of this later on.

5.—“ Every year shall be paid to a poor widow belonging to Strickland Roger and resident therein, of sober Life and Conversation, with not less than two children if any such there be, the sum of Four pounds by two equal half yearly payments. If no such widow shall offer so qualified, it is my will

and mind that the Schoolmaster for the time being shall reap the advantage during the vacancy."

The Schoolmaster never reaped this advantage, widow or widows always being in evidence or imported in time to claim the benefit.

5.—"Also Two pounds twelve shillings (L2 12s. od.) to be laid out by the Ch: Wardens and Overseers in bread at one shilling per week, to be given to the poor after divine service, always giving preference to those that are sick at home or present at Divine service."

This was duly carried out, the selected poor receiving the same every Sunday in the Church porch. The basket contained twelve small loaves. At present the recipient gets the same direct from the Shop.

The most important endowment so far as the School is concerned was the Foundation Scholarships for Arithmetic, Writing, and truest English. The first examination was carried out in 1788 by the Trustees themselves. The candidates sat round a table, each with a pencil and slate, and took down a long paragraph from some newspaper. The mistakes in spelling were counted, and the one with fewest errors received the prize. The truest English was tested by a piece of composition on some local event. In the same way Arithmetic was decided, fewest errors, and first done.

In 1858 it was thought desirable to alter the method of examination and improve the "esprit de corps" of pupils by publishing the names of winners on a board, placed in a prominent position in the

School. The result had the desired effect; more candidates applied for permission to take the examination, and the welfare of the School and teacher became as it were the property of the pupils. The moral tone improved wonderfully, and though foreign to these notes, for the sake of the "Old Boys," I record the following facts:—

When the new Church was built, the old scholars placed a fine stained glass window in the south aisle, with this inscription, "The Old Boys' Window." On another occasion, they supplied the service books for the chancel.

Many return from far and near to see their names and refresh their memories of bygone days.

REV. ALEN FISHER'S FOUNDATION SCHOLARS' ENDOWMENT.

Date.	Composition.	Date.	Dictation and Arithmetic.
1858	... J. Watson	1858	... A. Graham
1859	... M. Scott	1859	... D. Bryce
1860	... J. Parker	1860	... G. F. Washington
1861	... R. Burton	1861	... J. Atkinson
1862	... J. Todd	1862	... J. Scott
1863	... C. Watson	1863	... J. Sawyers
1864	... W. Hamlin	1864	... J. Vaulkhard
1865	... J. Graham	1865	... J. Dixon
1866	... J. Sharp	1866	... J. Farrer
1867	... T. Vaulkhard	1867	... R. Atkinson

1868	...	R. Scambler	1868	...	A. Barnes
1869	...	W. Line	1869	...	G. Pickthall
1870	...	J. Hunter	1870	...	J. Allan
1871	...	T. Savage	1871	...	R. Armer
1872	...	T. Simpson	1872	...	G. W. Blackshaw
1873	...	W. Oswell	1873	...	J. Lancaster
1874	...	H. Barnes	1874	...	J. H. Savage
					W. Atkinson
					W. Taylor
1875	...	W. Davis	1875	...	J. Reed
1876	...	J. T. Roscow	1876	...	T. Taylor
1877	...	T. C. Atkinson	1877	...	J. Dixon
1878	...	T. Davis	1878	...	J. Goodwin
1879	...	E. Savage	1879	...	G. Atkinson
1880	...	G. Bewsher	1880	...	W. W. Burrow
1881	...	T. C. Pittaway	1881	...	G. W. Dalzell
1882	...	R. B. Reed	1882	...	W. R. Dixon
1883	...	R. Dent	1883	...	H. Dinsdale
1884	...	F. Atkinson	1884	...	W. Benson
1885	...	T. W. Elliot	1885	...	J. Braithwaite
1886	...	J. E. Savage	1886	...	C. Davis
1887	...	G. M. Sharpe	1887	...	G. Lightley
1888	...	W. T. Palmer	1888	...	T. F. Hully
1889	...	J. Pearson	1889	...	C. Walker
1890	...	B. E. Storey	1890	...	W. E. Atkinson
1891	...	J. Wilson	1891	...	J. Ellwood
1892	...	W. Tebay	1892	...	E. Pearson
1893	...	A. O. Reed	1893	...	M. C. Wright
1894	...	A. Walker	1894	...	T. Thompson
1895	...	C. Pittaway	1895	...	P. Clarke
1896	...	W. Makinson	1896	...	C. Storey
1897	...	E. T. Sharpe	1897	...	H. Clarke

The following letter was found in an old Escrtoire at Bristol :—

June 30, 1648.

To Elizabeth Askew.

My Dear Sister,

I have had little time for writing of late, but it pleases me to tell thee all of our doings, and I rejoice to say that we are all in good health since my last Christmas letter. I thank thee for the one received in January by the carrier.

My husband has been as usual much engaged, he expected to find a quiet home here for our older years, but it would seem that troubles and cares about public questions fill the whole land, at any rate they press us heavily here. I told thee of the difficulties into which we were put at the time of the election of a minister for the chapel at Burneside, when our neighbour Richard Braithwaite, of Burneside Hall, was so overbearing at the meeting, and endeavoured to press forward a friend of his whom Thomas knew to be a boon companion of the young farmers. R.B. called Thomas afterwards a cabbage merchant and sneered at him openly, which troubled him much. Since then we have had political troubles. One day Huddleston Philipson, of Crook Hall, came here with some noisy followers on horses and demanded beer. Then they urged Thomas to join their party and to go with them to attack Colonel Briggs, at Kendal, who is now Mayor. It was difficult to get the party away without uproar. They took the track to Kendal and we learned afterwards that one of them Robert, who is called Robin the Devil, got more drink, and then finding the Mayor was at service in the church, he rode his horse within the door and cried out to the Mayor to come out. The people turned upon him and he had hard work to get away leaving his cap in the church. One day Col. Briggs with a party came here to ask about those who had attacked him, and unfortunately he saw some painted glass* which my husband brought home last year and has put into a window. It has the Royal Arms in it and Briggs was very wroth and said he would have broken it only he would leave it to witness against us. I feared for some days he would come but it seems he has been kept busy and we have heard nothing further. It was partly through him that John Laybourn, of

* Still in Tolson Hall window.

Cunswick, got into trouble for keeping a Popish Priest and had to dismiss the priest and pay a fine. (His son William had a troop of horse at Edge Hill battle). We hear he had to give a bond of £300 that he would not go five miles from Cunswick without permission of Col. James Bellingham, of Levens Hall, but it is said he goes at night to a priest hidden at Dodding Green. I know not with what truth. Col. Bellingham was thought till lately to be on the King's side, but it appears he has got friends at Court. He lives in a fine house, and when he goes to any public business he rides with an array of men in his livery armed with spears. Sir Francis Ander-ton, of the Kendal Castle, was in the Kendal Market last Saturday and spoke to Thomas, which pleased him much. In the street, I had gone with Thomas on a pillion to purchase some wares and was indeed surprised at the crowd I saw and the great men who came. They were meeting the judges who were travelling from Lancaster to Appleby under the protection of the Sheriff, Walter Strickland, of Sizergh, who is now reconciled to the Parliament after paying his fine of £140:0:0. He has been made Commissioner of Land Tax and presses heavily they say on his neighbours.

Besides these great men there were James Duckett, of Grayrigg Hall, whose wife was a sister of Thomas Laybourn, of Cunswick, and Christopher Gilpin, of Kentmere, who has a fine hall but no son to leave it to. The priests used to say this was because of his grandfathers being opposed to Popery. My husband is summoned to the jury and he will go with the other jurors from this part of the county early to-morrow, that they may have protection from the judges escort. He will be away three days as there are many cases to try, chiefly for purloining and sheep stealing. He is so tender of mind that I am sure he will try to vote "Not Guilty" where there is any danger of the prisoner being hung. I learn that there has been no hanging for many years in this county. He talks much of it and of seeing our great High Sheriffess, the Countess Anne, of Pembroke; it is recorded of her that she not only took her seat on the bench, but rode on a white charger before the Judges to open the Assizes.

My husband took me on a pillion last Friday to Bleaze Hall, where we expected a parcel by the carrier and received all your welcome letters. They had been only two weeks on the road. Richard Bateman was very friendly and gave us bread and beer. He showed us his stables for 100 horses, and

we saw two packs of them come in with their leaders jangling a bell from their neck. One was from York. It must be a profitable business, for Richard Bateman has built a fine house and panelled with oak. But he told my husband that in these disturbed times he lost many horses and often got no payment, beside the number lamed and injured on their back which we saw in his field. While we were there two gentlemen came in with their servants all well armed. They said they had ridden from Carlisle and they complained of the boys on the road. They wanted lodgings for the night and R.B. recommended the White Lion in Kendal. They told us of the wild state of the country on the Scottish borders and how they had ridden for their lives from some robbers who happily were only on foot, but tried to stop their passage on a strait place. My husband was troubled to know who they could be and why such like persons should be wandering about the country, but they were very well spoken men, and well dressed. They swore a great deal, but I believe that is common with such persons, especially if they are of the King's party. We stopped in returning through Kendal to take food and went to see the Parish Church which I had never seen. There was quite a crowd, and a debate was going on between Thomas Taylor, of Firbank Church, and two other clergy. T. Taylor said it was against the truth to baptise infants or to sign with the sign of the Cross like Papists, or to wear surplices. There was great feeling shown among the people and when the other preacher got up to answer him many shouted out in the church, others hooted. Richard Braithwaite, of Burneside Hall, was there with some of whom my husband said were Popish priests. R. Braithwaite is very hot against what he calls Puritans. Among others who had come to hear these was a fine looking young man from Preston Patrick who my husband talked to. His name is Wakefield and he has a small estate. He seemed a very proper man. This is indeed a fearful time and I am glad to reach home safely, as it was a long ride for me.

August 25.

I began this letter some time ago and since then many disturbances have kept me from writing and I had no prospect of sending a letter. My husband went to the Assizes as I told thee and was much concerned at the sad cases there, and

much struck with the dignity of the High Sheriffess. There were some tried for sheep stealing and some for killing deer, and quite a number were brought up for vagrancy and other small offences. A woman was brought up for Witchcraft, but the judge would not hear the case, which was very wise, for I think if there be such a crime it is beyond our trying. My husband was sad about the state of the jail, when he saw through the grating how miserably they were lodged, and they cried for food and money to buy clothing. The stench was very evil he said and no wonder many die in prison. He was interested to hear much of the state of this unhappy country. Every one seems afraid, and it not clear which party may triumph, and confiscating and threatening on every side. The list of payments demanded from our landed gentry was made public and I know not how such men as Mr. Strickland and Mr. Laybourn will raise the money. There seems a constant eye kept on everyone and some report is sent to headquarters if any man so much as spoke a word against the Parliament, or even against the doings of its agents.

Thomas learnt that a portion of the fine is given over to the informer, and so there are men in each county, low fellows with small legal training who are making a living by pouncing down upon quiet gentlemen and bringing them under the law, and it is far from here to London where only appeals can be heard, and our county being represented in Parliament by one of those who are not favoured by the party in power, has but little chance of getting wrongs put right. I fear our new Presbyterian ministers are too ready to bring up charges against those who do not agree with them and it is hard to know what will please them. Just now we are threatened with penalties if we keep Christmas as a holiday or make mince pies then. I suppose you have like worries, but it seems a very poor act of religion to interfere thus with our household business, and the very way they encourage spies and informers is very grievous. Then we have had a man sent to see if windows in the churches have pictures of saints on them, and several at Bowness Church were broken partly for this and partly to vex the old clergyman there. My husband met Robert Philipson on the road with some of his wild followers. They stopped him to see if his horse was worth seizing as they said for the King's use, but she was lame so they let him go on, threatening him and abusing him

for not aiding openly with them or sending them money. Now Col. Briggs is talking of making a new levy for the Parliament, so between them we are suffering much anxiety. But I ought not to dwell on our troubles, when I think of the actual fighting which has been round you at Bristol.

We have but little clear report, but it must have been terrible to hear the guns and to see the slaughter, though the worst of it seems to have been on the other side of you. I am thankful Cromwell spared the towns, but the new law must be a cruel hardship and I suppose you had been previously as hardly pressed by Prince Rupert whose foreign nature makes him a very tyrant. All last month we were alarmed by reports of the coming South of the Scotch army under Sir Marmaduke Langdale and only on Sunday this week they began to appear at Kendal. My husband saw them coming into the town and the people were all in great alarm as there were no troops to protect them. They were a very shabby ill armed lot of men, and they had suffered much from rain and the state of the roads in the North. The farmers on the road suffered by their depredations as they had no food with them and made free with everything, but have not been otherwise troublesome and no one has been slain by them. We hear they got as far as Preston and then Cromwell with his army fell on them and slew a large portion. The rest are said to be struggling back towards their own country. The young man Wakefield, whom I named, was abused by them as his house was right in their way. They robbed him of a horse and some food. Col. Briggs has raised a force to meet them on their return. He dared not face them as they came South, though he vapoured so much of his allegiance to the Parliament. Thomas heard that he took 12 prisoners and sent them in their rags to jail at Lancaster. Thomas meets some friends once a week at Kendal to hear the news letter read so that we feel quite informed of all that goes on.

It is wonderful to think of the speed with which tidings are sent from London to the North since Thomas Withering's post scheme was completed. It is said that a letter has gone from London to Edinburgh by the Post in a week, but this we hardly credit, as it takes even now a full week to bring the News Letter to Kendal and sometimes it has failed from highway men stopping the messengers to see if there was money in their bags. But there is no saying what may be done in time, the chief difficulty is in the roads, and there are so many

sorts of Overseers, that when the roads are good in one place they fall off in another.

Thomas has just returned from Kendal where he went to hear the news letter read as he likes to be well up with the times. He says it is true that Oliver Cromwell has been in the battle with our poor Scotchmen who passed this way a month since and has slain or captured several thousands. They must have come South by many roads if so many of them reached Preston. They lost all their ammunition and their spare clothes, and most of their ponies. They seem to have been ill-guided, so they were attacked separately in their different armies, and only half got to Warrington at all.

Thomas cannot understand for what they were fighting, but it seems the Presbyterians side with the King and dislike the Independents more than the Episcopaliains, and now all disputes turn on Religious matters, alas. The poor soldiers seemed, when they came through Kendal, very ignorant and half fed. It has all been a great loss to those who reside on the main road South, for the soldiers seized food, milk and even sheep as they went along, and they have no regular pay, so they paid nothing. Some of them wore the skins of sheep they had killed. We have had an anxious consideration in our family. I told thee of the young man, J. Wakefield. He has been here several times about the purchase of stock and about a mare which Thomas lamed when he went to Appleby, and now it seems that he wishes to pay addresses to our daughter. We think him a very respectable man, he owns his farm, but then we hardly like our daughter uniting herself to a man so much connected with George Foxes' views. He has also subscribed to Col. Briggs Parliamentary Fund for army soldiers, and my husband is inclined to favour the opposite party, though he does not like to take a public part. So we have decided to discourage his approaches. I feel that character should weigh more than worldly advantage. I think the girl herself is rather favourable to him, but we think our judgment should decide the course, and I hope she has sense to agree. It seemed lately that George Birch, who is agent for Sir Francis Anderton at the Castle, was courting her, but Thomas had reasons to believe he is a Roman Catholic, so we set our faces against this also. It seems rather hard on her. Did I tell you of our visit to Kendal Castle in the Summer, while Sir Francis was away. It is a

fine place, and they still show Catherine Parr's Bedroom, and the very bed she used. The rooms are large and their is a smooth Courtyard with preparations for jousting, though happily that foolish and dangerous sport is now over. Sir Francis gave an entertainments to his tenants and friends last spring and allowed them to brings Cocks for a friendly Main, which was very hospitable. He looked on and seemed much amused they said. There was talk of Bear Baiting, but a Bear could not be got. He gave plenty of good cheer, and some could hardly walk over the hill after. To look at his stables and at his kitchen one must suppose him a very wealthy man, but we hear he is not a good payer and perhaps he has overspent himself like so many, and the new taxes have pressed him sore. The place has one drawback in that they have no water supply except from rain, but there are two large cisterns, and when they are empty Sir Francis usually goes away and the servants who remain get water from a pump at the Castle Dairy. We thought of our streams at home with renewed pleasure.

Sir Francis does harm by making the working people dissatisfied with wages. The fixed rate was one shilling a day for men, but they are beginning to ask one shilling and six-pence, and there is no saying what it will come to. My two maids are leaving next term, because they think two pounds ten shillings too little for the half-year, and I think I must persuade my husband to let me keep one of them at a rise. The worst of it is that everyone is beginning to expect white bread once a day, instead of oatcake or porridge, and this is hard now that wheat is so dear. The justices will meet shortly to fix the rate of wages for the next 12 months, and I hope it will be of some effect through the County. But I must return to our little excursion. Among other things we saw the "Spittal" for plague sufferers, and the burial place which was made 24 years ago, when 171 persons died of this terrible disease in Kendal. It is a little north of Kendal by the Scotch road. Our man remembers it well, and has told me his father died of it in that same year.

We heard much about Col. Briggs from G. Birch, who says that he only took up with Cromwell's party because Sir F. Anderson would not speak to him or invite him to his Castle parties. Also that he has no right to be called Colonel at all, nor to wear arms. His father was a common weaver and he is only a shearman dyer, but since Colonel Pride has

taken such a prominent part in the Parliament Army was only a drayman himself a few years since, we cannot make these distinctions in England. The truth is there has been a difference between Briggs and G. Birch, as the latter had a quarrel after the cock fight with some stranger to whom he lost money in a bet, and there was a disturbance in the street, and G. Birch was brought with him before the Justices, and Briggs, who was Mayor, voted a fine. Then also Briggs took the part of one of the poor foreign weavers who came over from the Low countries after the persecution, and who was turned off a footpath on the Castle hill by G. Birch, which the Castle people wish to stop altogether, though it has been long known as a public footpath. These poor weavers seem God-fearing and hard-working men, and we ought to feel for them, though I am afraid there is a good deal of jealousy against them, and those that employ them. Is it true that the Bristol people are talking of running a two wheeled carriage through in two days to London every Monday and back on the Saturday as the last newspaper says. I can hardly think people will want to go so often, but men are growing very restless now-a-days, but everything can be done where there are roads.

Farewell,

Thy affectionate Sister,

ANN TOLSON.

Letter 2. 1664, Augt.

There appear to have been many letters but of merely family matters. The following is the only perfect manuscript of this date:—

My dear Sister,

I have been reading thy last letter with tears and thinking how much I envy those who were present at my mother's closing scene. I should not be surprised if my husband and I find ourselves at Bristol again now that there seems a chance of a settled Government and safe journeying. As I look back on our life here it seems strange what changes there have been and how we have escaped the risks and losses which from one side or another have fallen on most families in this country.

I many times expected that Thomas would have been

despoiled of his property, especially when he joined himself openly to the Royalists. He felt after the execution of the King that there was no room for hesitation, but I think he did not avow himself till the Protector died and it appeared safe to forestall that public feeling must change. Since then he is sometimes as much disturbed by the abuses of the Royal party as he used to be by Col. Briggs and his followers. That poor man died last year and left a poor fortune after all his vaunting. His son is disposed to disavow the extreme views of his father and attends the Kendal Church services, and has promised to supply some cloth for the Yeomanry. He is courting a younger daughter of our Vicar.

Mrs. Leyburne has been very kind to me, and her husband noticed my husband when he was last at the Jury, which much pleased him. I think he had not expected to be so quickly paid for a field Thomas bought from him. It was quite a surprise for me when my husband and I were invited to a Maypole dance last spring at their new place at Witherslack which Mr. Leyburne bought from Earl Derby four years ago. No one thought he would have had money enough, but when the Derby troubles became known, it seems John Leyburne bought up the mortgage for £130 in gold and took possession. We saw his park and quite a herd of fallow deer, and Dr. John Barwick, who is Dean of St. Paul's, came among us and was very free spoken. His parents still live in Witherslack, and it is said he purposes to build a chapel near the village. Some of the Philipson family were there from Calgarth. They have been much despoiled and their Crook estate is confiscated as well as the island on Windermere. They told us that Robert who was called the Devil was slain last year in a fight in Ireland. He has left a wife and three children and the world will be all the quieter without him poor man.

There is a rumour that our neighbour Thomas Braithwaite, of Burneside Hall, has married secretly Elizabeth Nicholson, daughter of one of his serving men. I have seen the girl and thought her very forward in manner, and I noticed that she did not courtsey in coming into church when last I was there and she had silk ribands on her hat. It will be a sad let down for a distinguished family and perhaps a penalty for their haughty ways with their neighbours.

Thou wrote to me of the trial of four young men from Kendal who had marched all the way to Bristol preaching

George Foxes' doctrines. One of these men, Francis Howgill, was almost a neighbour of ours, as he lived at a place called Mount Joy in Underbarrow, which his Father and Grand-father had owned. Both of them were much respected. Though inclining to Independency in their religious views yet they never abused the Church and in fact this Francis was intended to be a clergyman. He read religious books and seemed from what I hear to be in trouble about his soul, until one day he heard George Fox preach either at Firbank or Underbarrow. This new doctrine (if it be new) had a great effect on him and in spite of all pressure from his friends and threats from the magistrate, he has taken up, preaching and converting as he deemed it, and he openly denounces all public amusements, paid priests and Church services. The other two John Audland and J. Halhead are Kendal men of good repute and of respectable parents and in truth they have a great following here, though few have courage to avow it.

September 30.

I told thee of my husband's going to the Assizes, he took me with him to Appleby. I desired to give evidence respecting a poor servant girl who was to be tried for concealment of birth and might have been condemned to death. Happily the Grand Jury refused to pass the Bill, so I had no cause to appear which relieved me much. The roads have been much mended and it was pleasant riding behind Thomas on a pillion. We had other company and I thought it a fine outing.

But I was deeply interested in the man Francis Howgill of whom I wrote in the fore part of this letter. He was brought to the Assizes on the commitment of a Justice because he would not swear allegiance to the King. A new Act was passed three years ago to punish anyone who would not swear according to the law, and it seems that George Fox and his followers say the Bible forbids swearing. It made me tremble to see the Judge and hear his voice. But F. Howgill seemed quite calm. I was afraid he would look at me for I dared not acknowledge him in such a place, and truly he seemed to be praying until the judge began to try him. He made a long speech but Judge Turner cut him short saying "I am come to execute the law and we can't change it for you, the law requires an oath," then again the judge said "Why do you not go to Church?" F. Howgill said "God dwells not in Temples made with hands," also "The Christians separated from the Old

Temple and met in houses and broke bread from house to house and no one place is now a church." Then the judge asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed on him.' It brought tears to my eyes to hear his answer, for he denied obstinacy or wilfulness or want of allegiance, but said swearing was against the command of Christ, against the doctrine of the Apostle James, and that the Bishop of Exeter, Dr. Gauden, had written to prove that for 300 years after Christ, it was forbidden. The Judge stopped him and sent him to prison till he should comply with the law, and it pains me to think of his punishment which seems so little deserved.

I often wonder whether those who follow us will see things in the same light and whether it is needful to take Scripture so strictly in its every word, but Thomas will not discuss these matters which the law of England has settled. He quotes the Bible injunction to obey what is written in the law.

It has shocked us much to hear of the cruelties upon those poor Quakers in New England. A letter to one of our neighbours states that Mary Dyar who was known in Kendal some years ago, was whipped and then hung at a place called Boston for being a Quaker, and this by men whose fathers left England to have freedom in religious worship. Judge Endicott tried her as mercilessly as Judge Turner whom I named, and yet Judge Endicott's father was one of those who went over in the May Flower.

I suppose you have had much trouble from the change of your clergy during the last year. Several of the churches in this neighbourhood have been the scene of disturbances in consequence of the imposition of Presbyterian ministers four years ago, and the recent dismissal of those ministers and the restoration of the former incumbents.

In two cases we know of, there was good reason for dismissal of the vicars and it has been an evil result of the restoration of the King, that these vicars have been replaced. But you may have the same trouble as we have, and I doubt not you have seen how both sets of ministers go about in turn annoying their adherents trying to gain sympathy. I ask myself, will even this settlement endure.

The Act against Conventicles and enforcing attendance at Church are being claimed strongly by our leading clergy and it seems the only way to maintain our Church services, as the

people grow careless and timid when so much law is being used against these ministers.

We were much interested in the writing sent in thy last letter from the work of the man John Bunyan of Bedford. It is marvellous that an unlettered man should be able so to express himself. Has he written much? Here we do not get any new books and had not heard of him before. I am thankful that his Anabaptist religion is not added to the various divisions which come into these parts. My husband says it is an importation from the Low Countries and is still confined to the South of England. I should have thought that if there was any form of fanatic faith more marked than another, it would have come to Westmorland, but perhaps we have too many Quakers to allow room for Baptists as they seem opposed to each others views entirely.

You will all respect me when you hear how successful I have been with my spinning. We keep the wheel going all evening, my maidens and I. I cannot get Elizabeth to work long at it. Thus we have made yarn out of all the wool of our sheep for two years, and it has been so well and evenly spun that it seemed worth while to get a small farmer who lives near this to weave it in his house during the wet weather. There was more cloth than we required, so I got a bid for it at the fair in Kendal and was very proud to bring home fifty shillings of my own earning. Besides the cloth, we knitted stockings for all our household. Even servants are now beginning to wear these when they go out to church or to market. Which seems a very needless piece of ostentation and I quite thought my husband would stand against it. But I made it a boon for our wedding day which pleased him. He actually brought home for me a present of a silk petticoat on the same day, but I hardly know when I can wear it. I thought it very kind of him, but it is hardly fit for use in this climate and I think every one would stare at me if I appeared in such display.

This ends the correspondence; a torn sheet without date, refers pathetically to the funeral of Thomas Tolson, and to the subsequent sale of the property to enable his wife and daughter Elizabeth to go back to the family at Bristol.



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